

Tape 12

Side A, 1 1/8 - 1 1/4

26 JAN 1979

STAT

MEMO FOR:

FROM: DCI

STAT

A will be in town next week.

I want to be able to invite him out to the Agency for about an hour's discussion and/or lunch. He is going to phone me on Saturday at home. Will you give me in the take-home your recommended times on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday that I could squeeze him in.

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Xerox to

Article appeared
on page A-4

Iranian Parallel Unheeded in Dealing With South Korea's Park

Mary McGrory

If you call the White House and ask if President Carter is going to visit President Park Chung Hee of Korea, you will be told that "no trip is scheduled or contemplated." But if you call the State Department you will hear that, as a matter of fact, Carter and Park have agreed they ought to get together in 1979, although the time and place have not yet been set.

It could be poor coordination, or it could be a certain self-consciousness about consorting with an ally who runs a police state. The recent experience with Iran has demonstrated that wrapping your arms around a dictator doesn't improve either your credibility or your standing with the folks who have to live with him — and who may eventually throw him out.

President Carter has called human rights "the heart of our foreign policy," but the heart has skipped several beats in Korea, where under a document called "Emergency Measure Decree 9" it is a crime to criticize the government. A 30,000-member Korean CIA harasses and spies on dissidents. Foreign missionaries who have tried to improve the lot of farmers and workers excluded from the benefits of the "Republic's" booming export economy are repeatedly warned to confine their activities to religion. Those who don't are expelled.

THE CHURCH COMMITTEE on Human Rights in Asia, an interdenominational organization based in Chicago, recently sent out a newsletter urging readers to call the White House offices of Anne Wexler and Sara Weddington to protest the visit.

"What visit?" a representative of Wexler asked one caller, the Rev. James Sinnott, a Maryknoll missionary who was expelled from Korea two years ago. He called the Korea desk of the State Department, which admitted there was a meeting in the works, but said that the "where and when" have not yet been finalized.

U.S. allies of Korean dissidents are afraid that if Carter goes to Seoul to see Park — and praises him with the effusiveness he laid on the shah in a

1978 Tehran toast — the human rights cause will be shoved back four years, to the time of Gerald Ford's Seoul visit, which Park used to demonstrate total U.S. approval of his repressive regime.

Human rights advocates are begging Carter at least to use a meeting, which they hope will not occur on Korean soil, to extract concessions:

For openers, they say, he should insist on the repeal of EM-9, the emergency decree.

HE SHOULD DEMAND to see the four Kims who are the four pillars of the human rights movement: Cardinal Stephen Kim; Kim Kwan Suk, general secretary of the Korean National Council of Churches; the jailed dissident poet, Kim Chi-Ha; and Kim Dae Jung, the politician who was jailed for having opposed Park in the 1971 presidential election.

The recent release of Kim Dae Jung and a batch of lesser-known political prisoners is precisely the kind of "cosmetic concession" that dissidents hope Carter will not settle for.

Although Kim has not been so far rearrested for repeating the kind of thing that sent him to jail in the first place, dissidents point out that his secretary has since been arrested for distributing copies of Kim's statements.

The Iranian parallel haunts the State Department, but they say it is not exact.

They claim that Korea does not torture its political prisoners, a contention disputed by dissidents, who say they can document instances of harsh and inhuman treatment.

Professors who have been jailed for signing a paper modelled on the U.S. Constitution are deprived of the right to teach upon release. Student demonstrations are savagely put down.

AS IN IRAN, the reason given for tolerating these screaming violations is the clear and present danger of a friend which has for a neighbor a well-armed and bellicose Communist government. And as in Iran, the effort to treat their people decently, but to arm them to the teeth.

We intend to make up for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops with a "compensatory package" of \$800 million worth of arms and \$900 million in credits to buy new arms.

Lately, reports have been flowing out of the Pentagon and the CIA of a massive new military buildup in North Korea. A U.S. Presbyterian minister named Ed Poitras, who has served 20 years in Korea, and who passed through Washington recently, thinks the alarming reports are a buildup for more arms expenditure — and more repression.

Skeptics in South Korea's dissident community believe that the numbers are inflated, that the smaller units into which the North Koreans have divided their forces are being counted as at full strength.

State Department officials say that while the commitment to human rights is still strong, nobody must forget that 2,600 North Korean tanks are poised to invade the South, and that the president must do nothing to cause the Park regime to "appear to falter."

That means, apparently, that we will continue to make "private," not public, human rights protests, and that, as in Iran, we will continue to embrace a "strong," hated leader in the interests of "stability." In other words, we learned nothing from the shah's downfall.